We have also expanded the Guidelines for Trip Planning and Safety. The Guidelines for Personal and Group Safety should be reviewed when considering registering for a trip.

**Sea/Touring Kayak Trip Paddler Requirements for Personal & Group Safety**

**Planning and Preparation for Trip**

* Paddlers are responsible to understand the proposed trip, being **aware of their own skills related to the level of the trip and assure that they have the proper equipment**.
* If the paddler has any health conditions that may be an issue, the Trip Leader should be notified in advance (Hearing, Diabetes, Severe Allergies)
* Before joining a trip, paddlers must know how to wet exit from their kayaks while wearing their sprayskirt.
* Required equipment will be determined by Trip Leader and will be communicated in the trip announcement. For most trips, we pick locations where paddlers must wear spray skirts, must have fore and aft flotation (either sealed hatches or flotation bags), and must have perimeter deck lines (4-5mm static cordage that doesn’t stretch)
* For "bigger water" trips (e.g., Great Lakes, Monroe, or the Atlantic), we may require that you have a sea kayak (>15 feet) and that you have participated in an open water rescue clinic before coming.
* If water and air temperatures put the paddler at risk for hypothermia, appropriate clothing (such as a dry suit, wet suit or neoprene) will be required
* The Trip Leader may need to change the paddle plan based on changing conditions (temperature, wind, weather).
* For advanced trips, participants should be comfortable paddling in anticipated lake (wind/wave) conditions specified by the Trip Leader. The paddler should have completed training to build strength and endurance to paddle the expected speed/distance planned for the trip.
* **The Trip Leader will make the ultimate decision on ability of each paddler to be able to safely participate in the trip**

**Registering for the Trip**

* HCKC Members are invited to register for a trip
* Registration should be done **on line from the Trip Announcement, this will assure that you receive any communications from the Trip Leader prior to the trip**
* Additionally, direct emailing the Trip Leader may be requested in the Trip announcement
* Complete a Waiver and COVID screen and send it to the Trip Leader **prior to leaving for the put in**

**On the Water**

* On all trips, paddlers **must wear their life jackets at all times** while paddling
* During a Club Sponsored Trip, the Trip Leader sets the expectations for the group and participants are expected to comply.
* Stay with the Group - All paddlers on an HCKC-sponsored trip must paddle with the group unless the paddler asks the Trip Leader to leave the group and their departure is agreed to by the Trip Leader
* Clear communications can be critical to the safety of the individual or group.